



# NEWS RELEASE

**Matthew D. Orwig**  
United States Attorney  
Eastern District of Texas

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: August 7, 2006

*Contact: Davilyn Brackin*  
*Public Information Officer*  
*(409) 839-2538 office*  
*(409) 553-9881 cell*

## **ALABAMA MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FACILITATING THE DELIVERY OF MARIJUANA**

(Tyler, TX) United States Attorney Matthew D. Orwig announced today that an Alabama man has pleaded guilty to the use of a communication facility to facilitate the commission of a felony in the Eastern District of Texas. **MICHAEL JEROME MCDANIEL**, 23, admitted to using a cell phone to warn his co-conspirators during the commission of the offense of unlawful distribution of marijuana before United States Magistrate Judge John D. Love.

On March 2, 2005, McDaniel and three co-conspirators were indicted for possession and conspiracy to distribute marijuana. Also named in the indictment were Tawanna Townes, Justin Mandrell Johnson and Larry Kelly Ford. According to information presented in court, McDaniel is alleged to being the driver of a vehicle that was following another vehicle transporting marijuana. When stopped by a state trooper for a traffic violation, McDaniel used his cellular telephone to alert the other car that law enforcement would suspect the two vehicles were traveling together. Thereafter, officers located the other vehicle occupied by Johnson and Townes, containing the marijuana. Townes and Johnson have pled guilty to their respective roles in the offense and Ford remains a fugitive.

At sentencing, McDaniel faces up to 4 years imprisonment and a fine

up to \$250,000. A sentencing date has not been set.

This case is being investigated by the Texas Department of Public Safety Highway Patrol and the Criminal Law Enforcement Division, Narcotics Service and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Richard Moore.

###